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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

App. No. : 10/708,618 Confirmation No. 2617  
Applicant : Susumu Noda, et al.  
Filed : March 16, 2004  
T.C./A.U. : 2883  
Examiner : Jerry M. Blevins  
Docket No. : 39.040  
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Sir:

In response to the Office action of October 31, 2005 reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, amended as follows, is respectfully requested.

**AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121**

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.